Vaccination, Abnormities etc.

[57]

LDR

LETTER

FROM

The Vaccine Agent,

TO THE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Smith

FEBRUARY 7, 1822.

Read, and referred to a Select Committee.

WASHINGTON:

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1822.

The Hon. SPEAKER
of the House of Representatives.

BALTIMORE, *4th February*, 1822.

SIR: From letters which I have received from Dr. Hunter, of Tarboro', in North Carolina, I am fully persuaded I have discovered the true cause of the deplorable events which have happened there: And I am now satisfied that they have originated from an accident, such as never occurred before, and there is no danger that the like will ever occur again.

I had a paper which contained some small-pox scabs, taken by myself, from a person named Whitfield, about the 4th of October, 1821; and, on this paper I had written carefully, to avoid accidents, that it contained the variolous or small-pox matter. But, this paper was afterwards mislaid; and, after searching for it in vain, I had concluded it was lost, and supposed it might have been swept out of my office with other waste papers.

From the information, however, which I have received from Dr. Hunter, quoting the words I had written on it, I have no doubt but that the same identical paper I had lost, *containing the small-pox scabs, and marked as such,* was put up in Dr. Ward's letter, by some mistake or inadvertence, instead of the glasses of vaccine matter which I intended to send to him; and which, from his letter to me, I supposed he had received and used.

We may now therefore safely conclude, that the injury done is of more limited extent than I feared. And every citizen of North Carolina has it in his power to be secured from it, if they will use the vaccine matter I have sent to them.

Dr. Hunter assures me, that the vaccine matter obtained by him from this Institution, and which he was using "in a general and extensive vaccination," when he wrote me, 19th ult. "was such as he knew to be genuine."

I hope you will be so good as to make the contents of this letter known in the House of Representatives; and, I will be happy to furnish you, or any committee of Congress who may be appointed to make inquiry on this subject, with every fact relating to it, which has, or may hereafter come to my knowledge.

I have the honor to be,
With great respect,
Your most obedient servant,
JAMES SMITH.